

Three Polish
Christmas Carols
Trzy Kolędy



Arranged by

Clive Strutt

ES Verlag



Cover Illustration: A Christmas manger scene in the old part of the city of Lublin, eastern Poland.

The Three Polish Christmas Carols

The three Polish carols¹ for the Nativity — arranged here by the English composer Clive Strutt (b. 1942) — are traditional and are all well known in Polish circles. One finds that there are several different textual variations of these carols in the literature but all three here have been taken from *The International Book of Christmas Carols* by Walter Ehret, George K. Evans and Don Martinetti, published by Walton Music Corporation, Lauderdale, Florida, USA, 1963 and 1980. George K. Evans has also provided an English poetic rendering of the Polish that with very minimal changes could be sung to the three arrangements by Clive Strutt.

No. I *O gwiazdo Betlejemska*

This title literally means, ‘O star of Bethlehem.’

<i>O gwiazdo Betlejemska zaświeć na mem niebie Ja cię szukam wśród nocy Ja tęsknię do Ciebie. Prowadź mnie do stajenki, Gdzie Chrystus złożony, Bóg Człowiek z Panny świętej Dla nas narodzony.</i>	O star o’er Bethlehem shining, Bring me your Heav’nly light; For long my heart has been pining, Seeking thee through the night. Come, lead me to the stable, There, to the manger bed Where Jesus, in garments lowly, Pillows His tiny head.
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No. II *Mizerna Cicha*

The title literally means, ‘Miserable manger.’

<i>Mizerna cicha, stajenka licha, Pełna niebieskiej chwały, Oto leżący na sianie śpiący, Wpromieniach, Jezus mały. Nad nim Anieli Wlocle staneli i pochyleni klęczą, Zwłósy złotemi, skrzydły białemi, pod malowanq, tęczą.</i>	Only a manger bed for the Stranger, Sent down from Heaven to save us! But Love is keeping watch as He’s sleeping, Dear Son of God, most glorious! Angel bands hov’ring offer Him cov’ring, With arms so closely twining. Snow-white wings flowing, golden hair glowing, O’er a rainbow shining.
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¹ The three Christmas carols in this work are called *kolędy* in Polish and are amongst those that are traditionally sung in the churches. Further details of Polish Christmas carols can be found in an article by Staś Kmiec entitled *Kolędy: Prayers to God - Polish Christmas Carols and their Cultural Significance* which is available at:

http://www.polishyoungstown.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=513

No. III *Sliczna Panienka*

The title literally means, 'Fairest of Maidens' but this carol is often referred to as the *Carol of the Hay*. Because both hay used as feed and straw used as bedding feature so prominently at the place of Jesus's birth they are revered symbols of the Nativity in several Eastern European countries including Poland. Indeed, straw is often placed under tablecloths at the festive meals and also under rugs and carpets where people kneel to say their prayers.

Śliczna Panienka Jezusa zrodziła, Swtajni powiwszy Siankiem Go okryła. <i>O siano, siano, Siano jak lilija, Na którym kładzie Jezusa Maryja.</i>	<i>Mary, the Maiden, When she bore dear Jesus, Tenderly laid Him Where the hay was sweetest. Fresh hay, O fresh hay, Fragrant as the lily! You are the cradle For the Son of Mary.</i>
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Three Polish Christmas Carols

Trzy Kołędy

Duration: 3' 03"

arranged by Clive Strutt

No I "O Gwiazdo Betlejemska" (Durⁿ 1'12")

('O Star o'er Bethlehem shining')

Andante

(M.M. ♩ = 40) (♩ = 120)

SOPRANO

ALTO

CHOIR

TENOR

BASS

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and a four-part choir. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. The tempo is Andante, with a metronome marking of 40 beats per minute for the half note and 120 for the quarter note. The score includes lyrics in Polish and English. Dynamics include piano (p), mezzo-forte (mf), and crescendo (cresc.).

O gwiaz-do Be---tle-jem-ska zas-wieć na mem nie-
-bie Ja cię szu-kam wśród no --- cy
Ja tę-sknę do Cie-bie. Pro--wadź mnie do sta-

S
A

—jen - ki Gdzie Chry - stus zło - żo - ny Bóg

T
B

czło - wiek z Pan - - ny swię - - tej Dla nas na - ro - - dzd

1ma 2nda

-ny. Pro - - -ny.

Nº II "Mizerna Cicha" ('Only a Manger Bed')

Dur.: 1' 06"

Arr. by Clive Strutt.

Andante

(M.M. ♩ = 132)

SOPRANO

ALTO

CHOIR

TENOR

BASS

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Choir, Tenor, and Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Andante' with a metronome marking of 132 beats per minute. The lyrics are in Polish and are written below the choir staff. The score consists of three systems of music. The first system includes the lyrics 'Mi-zer-na, ci--cha, sta-jen-ka li--cha,'. The second system includes the lyrics 'Peł-na nie-bies-kiej chwa-ły, O-to le-ża-cy na sia-nie spią-cy,'. The third system includes the lyrics 'Wprom-ien-iach Je-zus ma---ty. Nad nim A--nie--li'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and 'mp' (mezzo-piano).

mi-zer-na, ci--cha, sta-jen-ka li--cha,

Peł-na nie-bies-kiej chwa-ły, O-to le-ża-cy na sia-nie spią-cy,

Wprom-ien-iach Je-zus ma---ty. Nad nim A--nie--li

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Wło--cle sta-ne-li i po-chy-le--ni kłę--czą,

Zwło-sy zło-te-mi skrzy-dły bia-łe-mi

pod ma-ło-wa---ną te-----czą.

Nº III "Śliczna Panienka" ("Carol of the Hay")

Dur: 45"

Arr. by Clive Strutt

Andante

(M.M. ♩ = 96)

SOPRANO

ALTO

CHOIR

TENOR

BASS

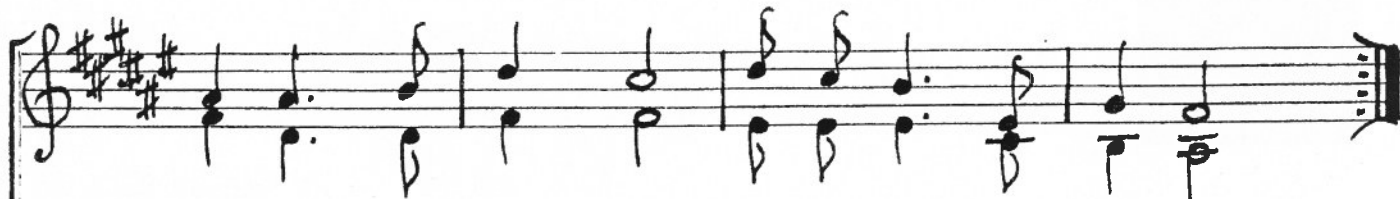
Śli-czna Pa-nien-ka Je-zu-sa zro-dzi-ła,

S w i a - j - n i p o - w i - w s z y S i a n - k i e m G o o - - k r y - ła.

O sia-no, sia-no, Sia-no jak li---li-ja,

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Na któ-rym kła-dzie Je-zu-sa Ma-ry-ja.



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